



Amendments to the Claims

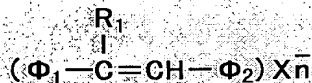
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) An ~~optional~~optical recording medium comprising a styryl dye represented by Formula 1 and capable of recording information by using a laser beam with a wavelength of 450 nm or shorter, said optical recording medium having a recording capacity of exceeding 4.7 GB (giga bytes) per one side when formed into a disk, 12 cm in diameter, said styryl dye substantially absorbing a visible light with a wavelength of around 400 nm:

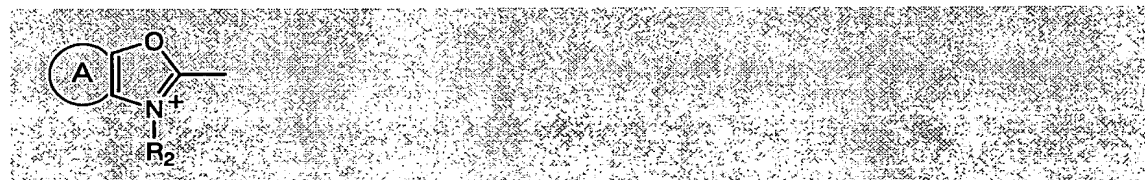
Formula 1:



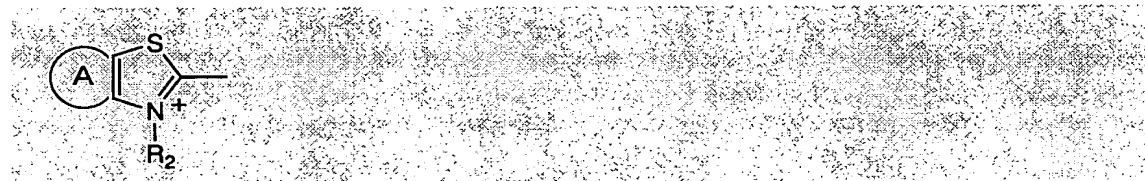
wherein in Formula 1, Φ_1 represents a heterocycle represented by any one of Formulae 2 to 8; Φ_2 represents an aromatic ring which has a substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen, cyano, nitro, and carboxy, or heterocycle having one or more nitrogen atoms; R_1 represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic hydrocarbon group, ether group, acyl group, halogen, or cyano

group, and the aliphatic hydrocarbon group, ether group, or acyl group may have a substituent; X^- represents an ~~organic metal complex ion as a counter ion~~; and "n" is a number of X^- to balance the electric charge in the styryl dye:

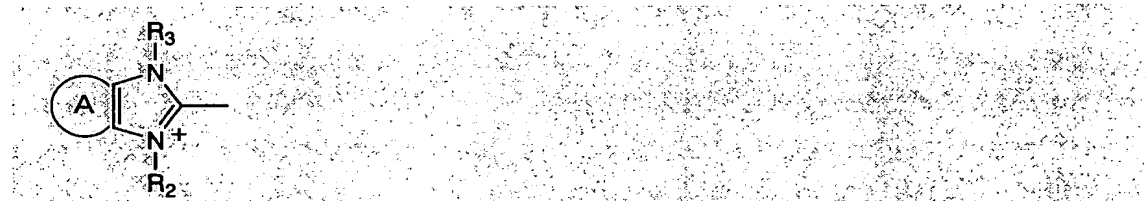
Formula 2:



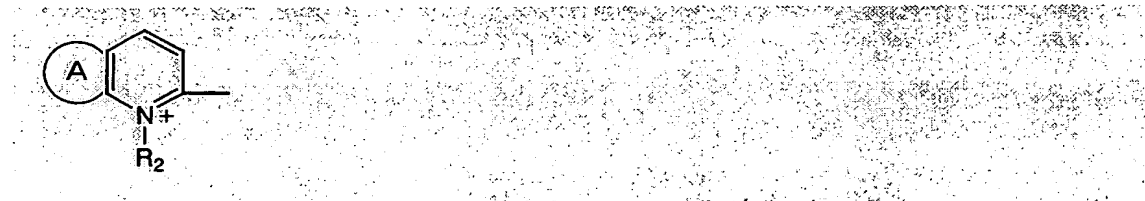
Formula 3:



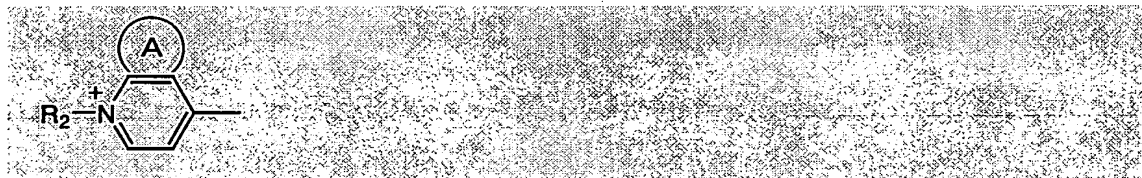
Formula 4:



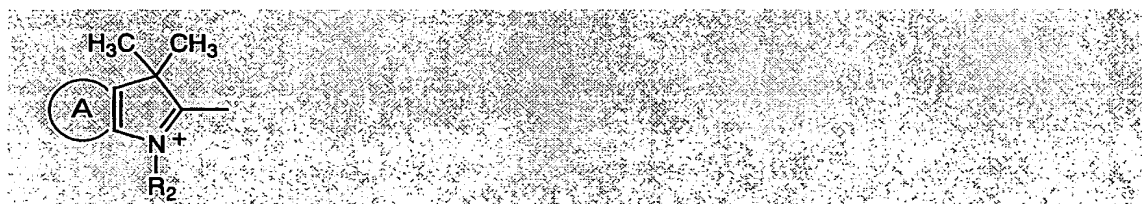
Formula 5:



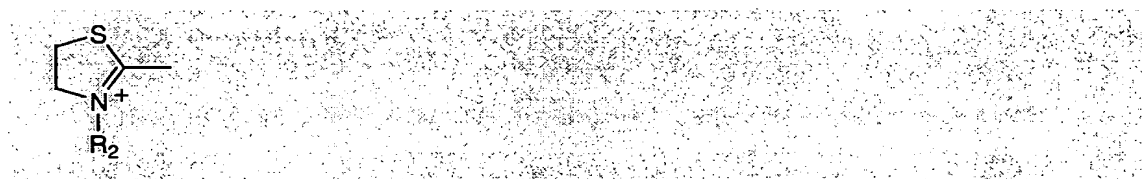
Formula 6:



Formula 7:



Formula 8:



throughout Formulae 2 to 7, A represents an optionally substituted monocyclic- or polycyclic-aromatic ring or heterocycle; when A is not present in Formulae 2 to 7, one or more substituents similar to those that are bound to A may be in the position where A is located; throughout Formulae 2 to 8, R₂ represents an optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon group and R₃ represents a hydrogen or an optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon group which is identical to or different from R₂.

11. (Previously Presented) The optical recording medium of claim 10, which further contains one or more other organic dye compounds sensitive to a visible light.

12. (Currently Amended) The optical recording medium of claim 10, which further contains one or more appropriate light-resistant improvers in a recording layer, said light-resistant improver being optionally used as a counter ion for said styryl dye when formulated into a salt, complex, or compound by combining said styryl dye with an organic metal complex anion.

Claims 13-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The optical recording medium of claim 11, which further contains one or more appropriate light-resistant improvers in a recording layer.

Claims 19-20. (Canceled)